

THOMAS F. TRANE.

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

"I was born February 4, 1846, in Lemvig, Jutland, Denmark, my father's name being Andreas Peter Trane and my mother's was Margrethe Nielson. When six years of age, I was nearly drowned in a pond, but managed to crawl out. I lived with my grandmother until I was eight years of age, when I went to my father in Copenhagen, going all the way from Aalberg in the steamer alone. I was baptized March 17, 1858, by Elder Lars Matthiasen, and confirmed the following day by Niels Wilhelmsen.

When fourteen years of age, I started for Utah with Carl Wideberg. I left Copenhagen May 2, 1860; crossed the Atlantic in the sailing vessel "William Tapscott;" drove an ox team across the plains in Captain Nephi Johnson's company; and arrived in Salt Lake City October 5, 1860, coming to Lehi October 12, 1860, where I resided for fifty two years.

The first two summers in Lehi, I herded sheep and went to school about four weeks each winter. In the summer of 1862, which is known as the high water year, I was washing sheep in Utah Lake near Pelican Point when Hyrum, the son of Bishop Evans, was drowned. I was sent to Lehi with the news, and I ran all the way from the Point to Jordan Ferry, two miles north of the bridge, which was under water, procured a horse at Terrey's and met the Bishop between American Fork and Pleasant Grove. We immediately returned, but the body of Hyrum Evans was never found.

In the summer of 1864, I hauled freight out west on Brigham Young's contract with Ben Eldredge and the Wells Fargo Stage Line. April 28, 1866, I went back after the church immigration, driving four yoke of oxen to the Missouri river and back to Utah, reaching Salt Lake City, September 17, 1866.

I brought a family from Calcutta in my wagon, the woman being a Hindoo of

high caste. She was a lovely woman, but could hardly walk, as her feet had been pinched after the manner of the Chinese. She could not stand the climate and died three weeks after reaching Utah.

In the summer of 1857, I was called to Sanpete to protect the settlers from the Indians who were on the warpath under Chief Black Hawk. I served about a month on this expedition. After forty years, I received a medal for services rendered. On the 8th of December, 1867, I started for San Pedro, California, with a ten horse team and two wagons after freight which was brought clown the coast in small schooners.

On the way down we left grain enough in a lone house at Las Vegas to last us back to the settlements. We arrived at San Bernardino January 17, 1868, and after crossing the deserts of Arizona and Nevada, I thought the San Bernardino valley was paradise itself.

We went down to Los Angeles, a city at that time of 2500 inhabitants, half of whom were Mexicans and Spaniards. There were only two or three ranches between San Bernardino and Los Angeles and one ranch from the latter place to San Pedro. We left San Pedro March 12, and arrived in Lehi May 16", 1868.

I started right off for Fort Laramie and worked on the railroad which was coming west as fast as men and money could push it. I stayed until Christmas, working as far west as Echo and Weber canyons. I came home January 25, and was married to Eliza Howes in March, 1869.

I went back to work on the railroad at Promontory and was there when the golden spike was driven by Senator Stanford of California. The camp at the Promontory was composed of the roughest men I have ever seen.

I went up Bingham Canyon and worked for awhile at one of the first placer mines in the canyon. In 1871, I tended stage stock at the Half Way house for Gilmore and Salsbury, and in July of that year commenced to work for Bishop Evans as a clerk in the Lehi Union Exchange, continuing until December 15, 1879,

when I started out as traveling salesman and introduced the Studebaker wagons. My territory covered Utah, parts of Idaho, Arizona, and Wyoming.

In 1882, with Augustus Powell I started a small mercantile business near the Denver & Rio Grande depot in Lehi, which I sold in 1894, on account of the Teasdale failure in Salt Lake City.

I next clerked for the People's Co-operative Institution for a few years and on April 7, 1896, was ordained a seventy and sent on a mission to California by way of Portland, Oregon. I labored in San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Diego, returning home in September, 1897. During the last few years, I have been traveling salesman for the knitting factory in Lehi and in 1912 moved to American Fork.

Mr. Trane has led a very active life; has been a member of the City Council several times; a member of the School Board; and one of the first officers of the Young Men's Mutual Association in 1875. He has traveled much in the west; was present at the World's Fair at Chicago and St. Louis; and altogether has been a progressive, industrious, and useful citizen.

He has four daughters living: Jean C. (Mrs. William Chipman), Haydee (Mrs. William Thornton), Lulu M. (Mrs. Dr. H. E. Robinson), and Lexia M. (Mrs. Lawrence Briggs.)